

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01300 211736Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4945
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CFED, GW
SUBJECT: ALLEGED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL -- BASIL ARTISHENKO

REFS: (A) STATE A-4755 (SEPT. 28, 1976)
(B) USBER A-158 (OCT. 15, 1976)

1. EMBASSY HAS TODAY RECEIVED NOTE FROM FRG FONOFF
WITH FOLLOWING WORDING:

BEGIN TEXT

THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH
REFERENCE TO THE LATTER'S NOTE VERBALE OF OCTOBER 22,
1976, NO. 366, THAT THE CENTRAL AGENCY OF THE LAND
JUSTICE ADMINISTRATIONS (ZSL) IN LUDWIGSBURG HAS
STATED THE FOLLOWING:

BEGIN QUOTE IT IS TRUE THAT THE MERCHANT
ALBERT KRUEGER IS ACCUSED IN A TRIAL BY JURY IN
LUENEBURG -- FILE: 14/2 A KS 1/73 (5/72) -- IN THE
PERIOD BETWEEN FALL 1941 AND SUMMER 1943 TO HAVE
MURDERED AT LEAST 183 PERSONS UNDER HIS BIRTH-
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NAME ALEXANDER MICHAILOWITSCH ERMOLTSCHIK, AS LEADER
OF THE UKRAINIAN 'SCHUTZMANNSCHAFT' (I.E., AUXILIARY
POLICE) OF THE GERMAN GENDARMERIE POST AT CHOINIKI IN
THE UKRAINE. AFTER A TRIAL PROCEEDING OF APPROXIMATELY
ONE YEAR THE PROCEEDING WAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED END
OF SEPTEMBER 1976 BECAUSE OF SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE
ACCUSED.

ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE EVIDENCE GATHERED FOR THIS PROCEEDING HAS REACHED THE ZSL IN THE FORM OF COPIES OR CARBON COPIES. THE MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT THE ZSL CONTAIN NO REFERENCE TO BASIL ARTISHENKO. THOSE DOCUMENTS WHICH PROMPTED THE TRIAL COURT IN LUENEBURG TO TAKE THE TESTIMONY OF ARTISHENKO IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLY BY THE TRIAL COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IN LUENEBURG.

PERMIT ME, HOWEVER, TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT ALREADY THE INDICATED DATE OF BIRTH OF BASIL ARTISHENKO MAKES IT APPEAR VERY UNLIKELY THAT HE COULD HAVE BEEN AN AUXILIARY POLICEMAN IN CHOINIKI BETWEEN 1941 AND 1943. THE GENDARMERIE POST IN CHOINIKI WAS ALREADY DISMANTLED IN SEPTEMBER 1943 BECAUSE OF THE APPROACH OF THE RED ARMY. AT THIS TIME BASIL ARTISHENKO WAS ONLY 17 YEARS AND 5 MONTHS OLD. ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION MILITATES AGAINST THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GERMAN GENDARMERIE COULD HAVE ASSIGNED 16 TO 17 YEAR OLDS (SIC) AS AUXILIARY POLICEMEN. IN THIS VERY INACCESSIBLE SWAMPY TERRITORY THAT WAS ENDANGERED BY PARTISANS AND LOCATED BETWEEN THE PRIPJET AND DNJEPR RIVERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE UKRAINE, AND IN WHICH CHOINIKI IS LOCATED, ONLY NATIVE UKRAINIANS WERE NORMALLY EMPLOYED AS AUXILIARY POLICEMEN OF THE GENDARMERIE POSTS. THIS TOO REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT ARGUMENT AGAINST THE SUSPICION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT BASIL ARTISHENKO, WHO GREW UP IN POLAND LOCATED SEVERAL HUNDRED KILOMETERS TO THE WEST, COULD HAVE BEEN AN AUXILIARY POLICEMAN IN CHOINIKI. ACCORDING TO OUR INTERPRETER THE NAME ARTISHENKO IS NOT AN UNCOMMON FAMILY NAME IN THE UKRAINE. END QUOTE

AN EXAMINATION IS CONTINUING WHETHER DOCUMENTS CONCERNING ARTISHENKO EXIST IN LUENEBURG.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)

BONN, JANUARY 19, 1977

END TEXT

2. COPIES OF FRG NOTE AND EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATIONS BEING POUCHED TO KURZE EUR/CE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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